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Inaugural Dissertation

Rejected March 22<sup>nd</sup>  
1825

on  
Delious Fever

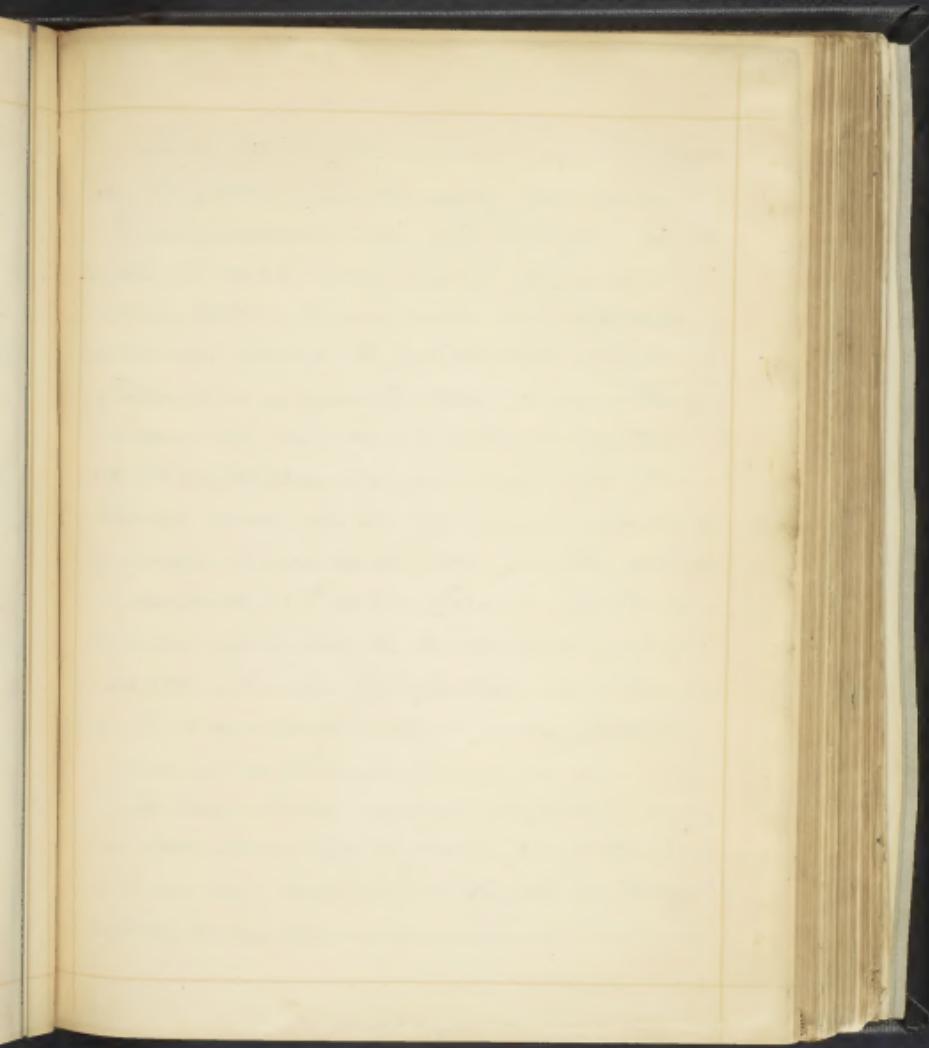
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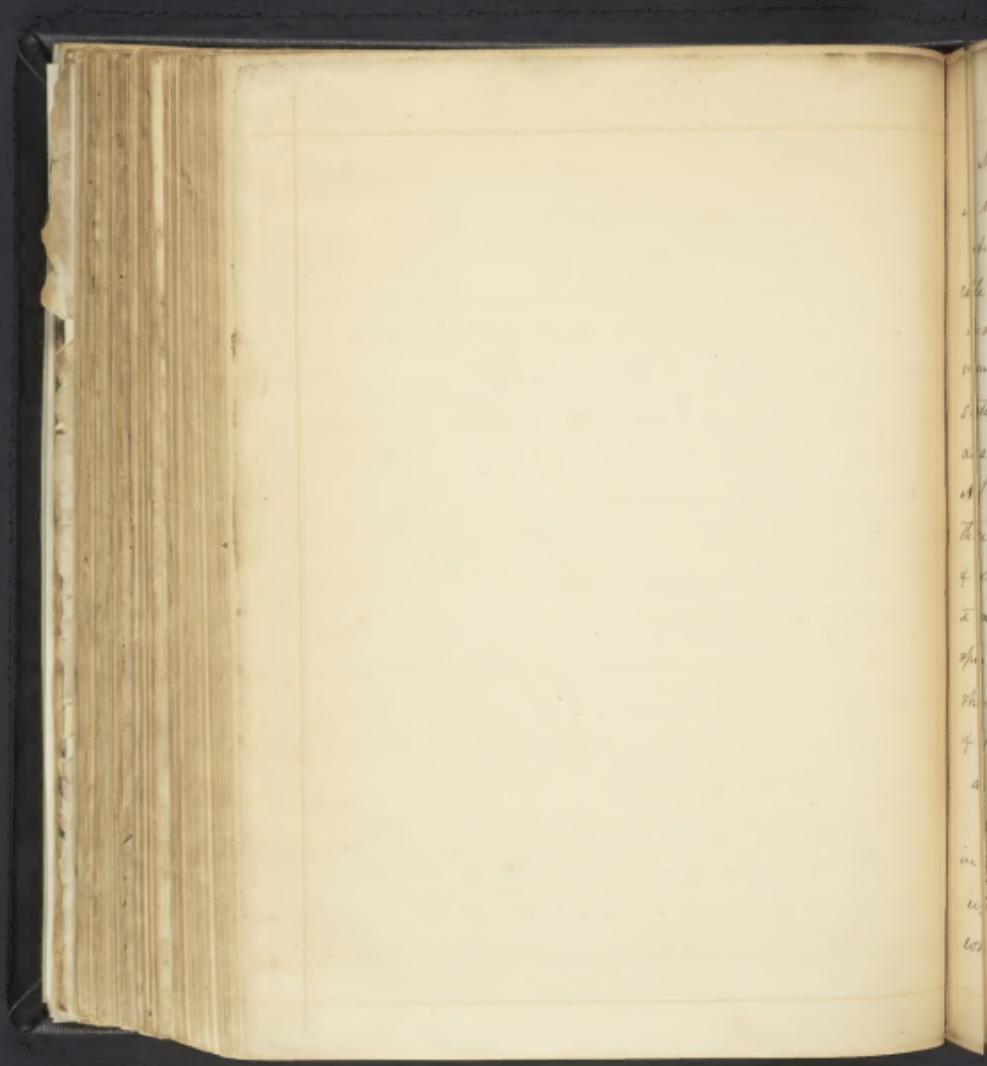
Edward F. Logwood

of  
Alabama

1825

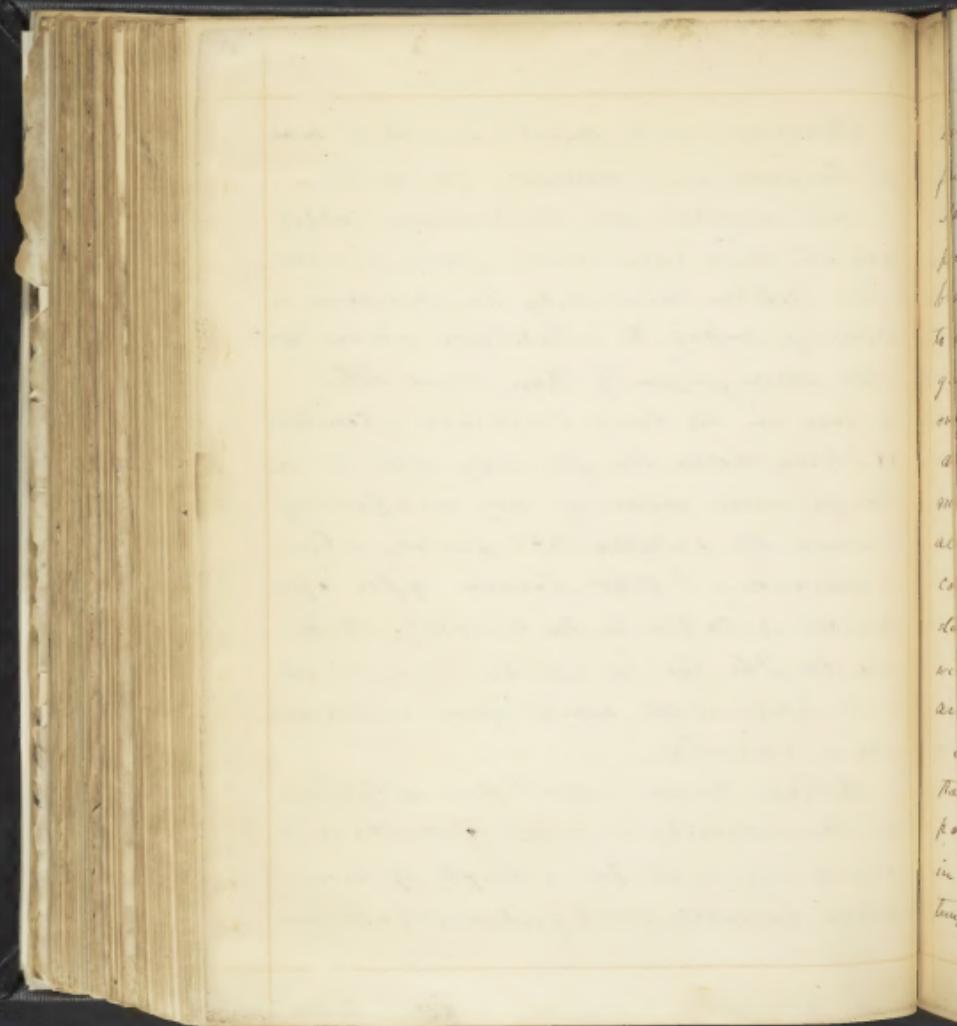
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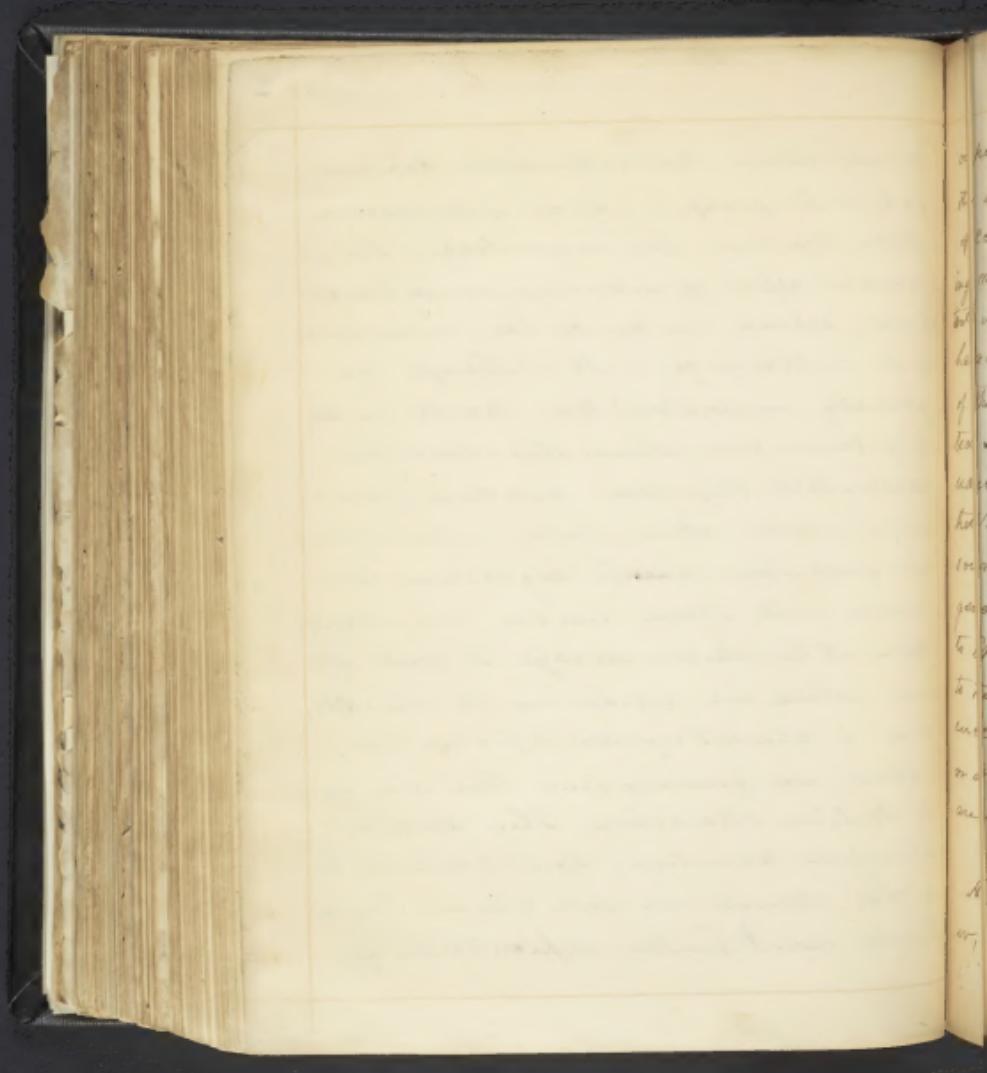


Numerous are the diseases incident to man  
in his fallen and miserable condition.  
And various are the remedies applicable  
to each individual form of disease.  
And Bilious Fever may be considered as  
occurring among the inhabitants of the southern  
states more frequently than any other  
disease in the long Catalogue of Complaints.  
I have chosen this for my dissertation,  
though well aware of my incapability  
of doing the subject that justice which  
it demands. I shall however offer a few  
opinions relative to the disease. And  
should I be too precipitate, or ignorant  
of the case shall expect your indulgence  
and correction.

Bilious Fever most frequently occurs  
in low marshy or moist grounds acted  
upon by heat for a length of time,  
which generally send forth exhalations



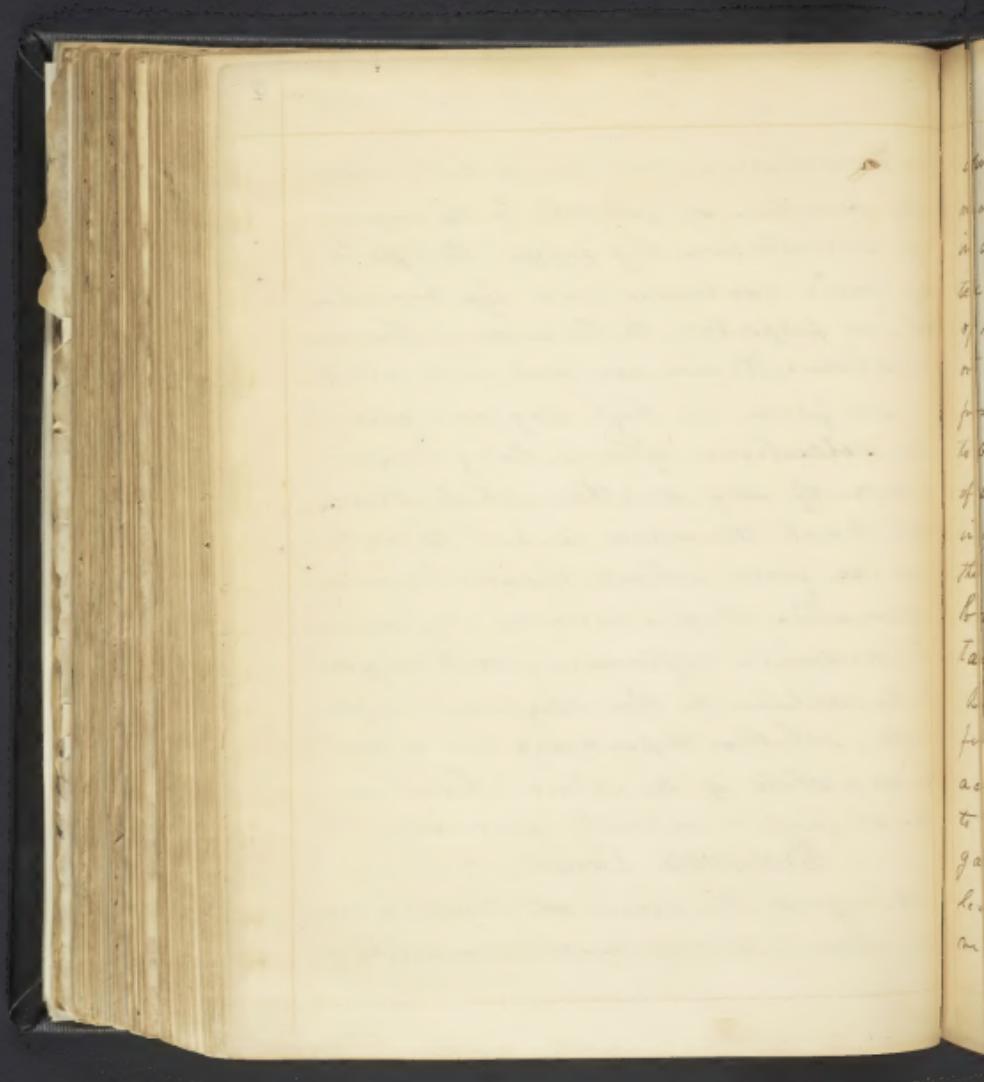
usually termed Marsh Miasma. And never  
fail to be prolific sources of this disease.  
Marsh Miasma has undoubtedly the  
peculiar effect of inducing fever in human  
bodies, especially under certain circumstances  
to its influence. It is thought too  
generally understood that, Marshes are the  
only sources from whence these exhalations  
arise. But they also proceed from  
moist earth, slime, mud, or mire, and  
also from low damp argillaceous soils,  
covered with fallen timber in a decaying  
state. As this timber decays, it emits efflu-  
via, which are deleterious to health,  
and is almost certain to produce fever.  
And we generally find them assuming  
the Bilious character. They are more  
powerful, virulent, and concentrated,  
in hot climates and warm seasons, than in  
temperate ones. It further appears that the type



or periodical evolutions of fever which they induce, are governed by the degree of concentrations they possess, the type being more continued and less remittent, in proportion to the power of these exhalations. We however met with attacks of this fever in high dry and elevated situations, after a long continuance of dry weather, which shews that Marsh Miasma is not the only source from whence Bilious Fever is generated. And is occasionally owing to Epidemic influence, with regard to the nature of this Epidemic influence, whether depending on a wet or dry state of the atmosphere, we are at present entirely ignorant.

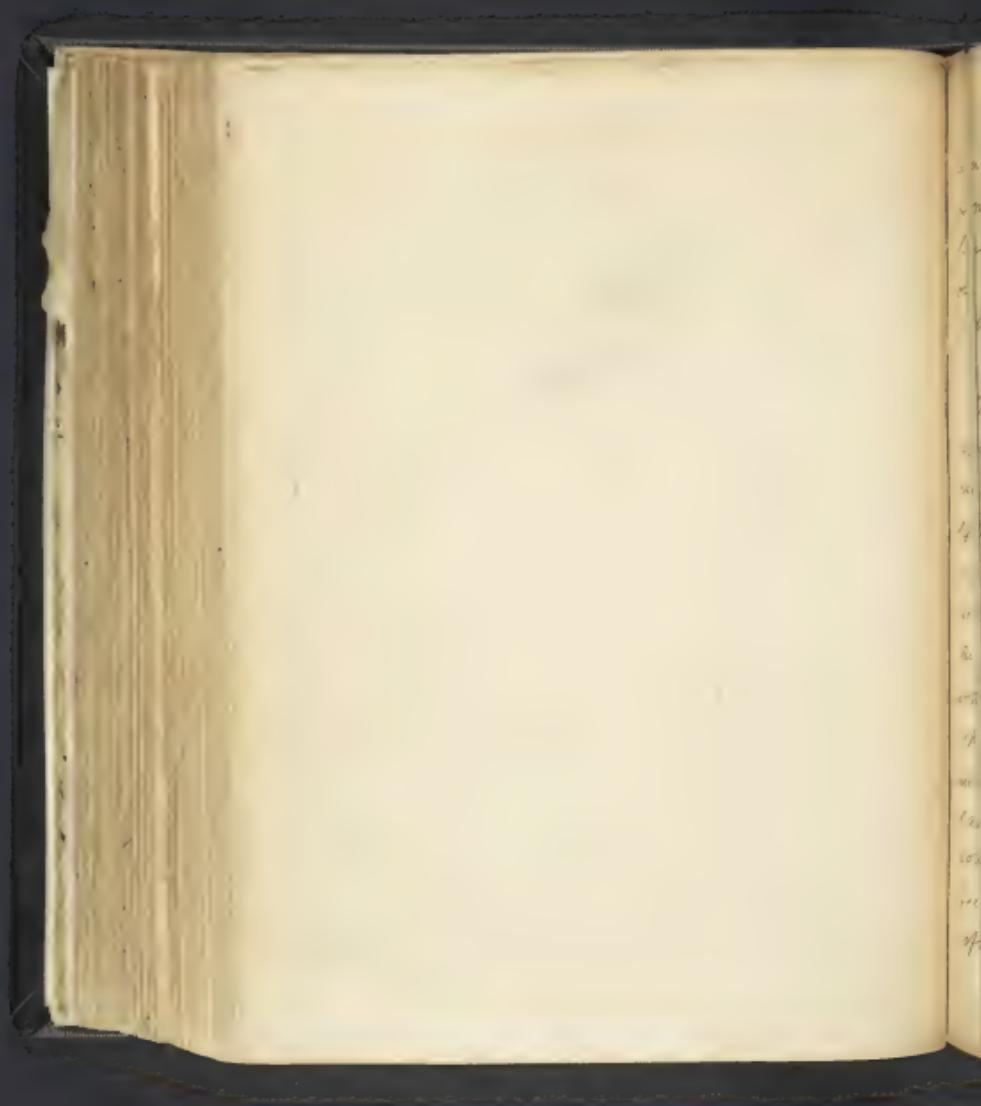
#### Proximate Cause

As regards the proximate cause of fever, there is a considerable diversity of



operations, among the most distinguished medical men. Some supposing it to consist in a nervous matter in the liver, or genera  
ted in the stomach. The increased action  
of the heart and arteria veins was  
not of nature, to expel the morbid matter  
from the system. This operation is  
to be owing to an increased excretion  
of bile. And so now again will not  
this be a simple modic Conclusive sign  
of the internal vessels on the surface of the  
body. Which was indeed the doctrine  
taught by the late Doctor Cullen.

But I think it more probable that the  
first impression is made on the stomach,  
and by sympathy communicated  
to other parts of the body. To investigate  
these different hypotheses, would  
lead me into a train of theoretical  
reasoning inconsistent with the intent



tion of this inaugural dissertation,  
or my abilities, and shall therefore  
leave the investigation of it for some  
one more capable of doing the subject  
justice than myself.

### Possible Causes

The remote cause of this disease is  
owing to the action of Marsh or human  
misadventures applied or introduced into the  
system. When a Nagibah master has been  
obliged to minister & heal, & at times  
as I have or do see in the following  
the rays of that bright God of the day  
which imparts a light and heat  
upon it, am often compelled which  
is almost certain to produce this dis-  
ease, hence in newly settled Countries  
where there is a great deal of timber  
felled this is allowed to decay, and we  
often see this fever produced from it.

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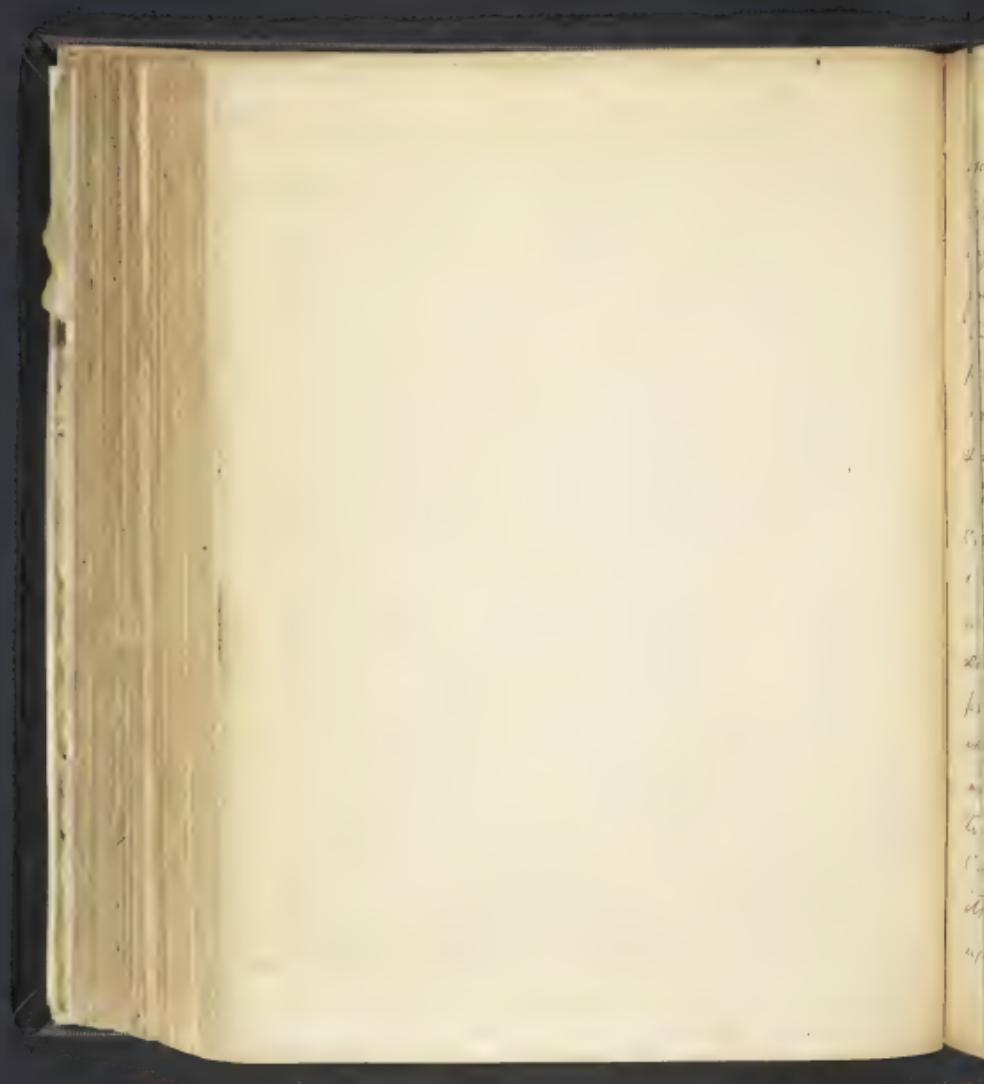
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or from marshes which is in fact the most abundant source of this disease, and we most always find it prevailing more in low damp marshy lands than other places. The exhalations arising from mud, mire, slime &c are likewise sources from whence this disease originates. This disease takes place from human excrements. As in visiting a person who is labouring under the disease, there is an excretion from the skin which is productive of the disease at times, or from fomites - we have known the disease to be contracted from the clothes of those who had previously been diseased. And a great many others, might be mentioned. But think those by far the most common, and shall therefore mention no more of them. -

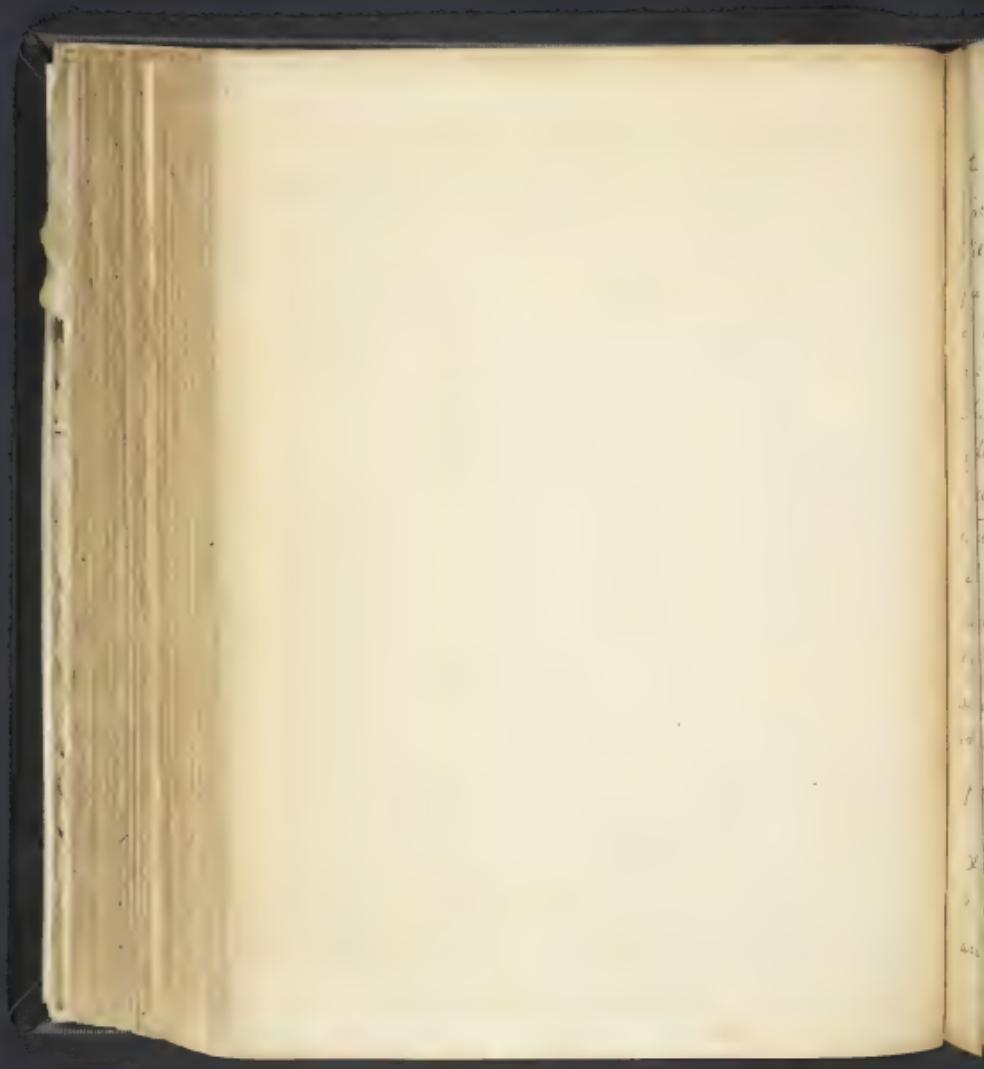
### Exciting causes.

Every thing which has a tendency to



exertion the body may be loaded upon  
with exciting cause of fever. And accord-  
ingly we find it often arising from  
great bodily fatigue, too great an  
indulgence in sensual pleasures, incor-  
poration in eating and drinking, and  
now and then from the suppression of  
some long accustomed discharge.

The passions of the mind are also  
considered as agents in the produc-  
tion of fever such as joy, grief, fear,  
anxiety &c But the occurrence of  
some other cause seems necessary to  
produce this effect. The most crude  
exciting cause is cold. The applica-  
tion of cold to the body overcheck  
to perspiration, and from that  
cause produces this disease; and  
its morbid effects seem to operate partly  
upon the circumstances of the body of



the person to whom it is applied. The circumstances which seem to give the application of Cold a still effect, and the degree of intensity, the length of time applied or its having a degree of moisture accompanying it. The circumstances which render persons more liable to be affected by cold, seem to be, inclemency, induced by great fatigue, violent exertions, long fasting, the want of water at rest, severe diarrhoeal disease, diet, intemperance in drinking, continually exposing the body to cold when heated much beyond its usual temperature; and above all immediate exercise of any kind.

### Symptoms

Languor, yawning, stretching, gazing, listlessness &c pain in the head, back and lumbar vertebrae, and in the

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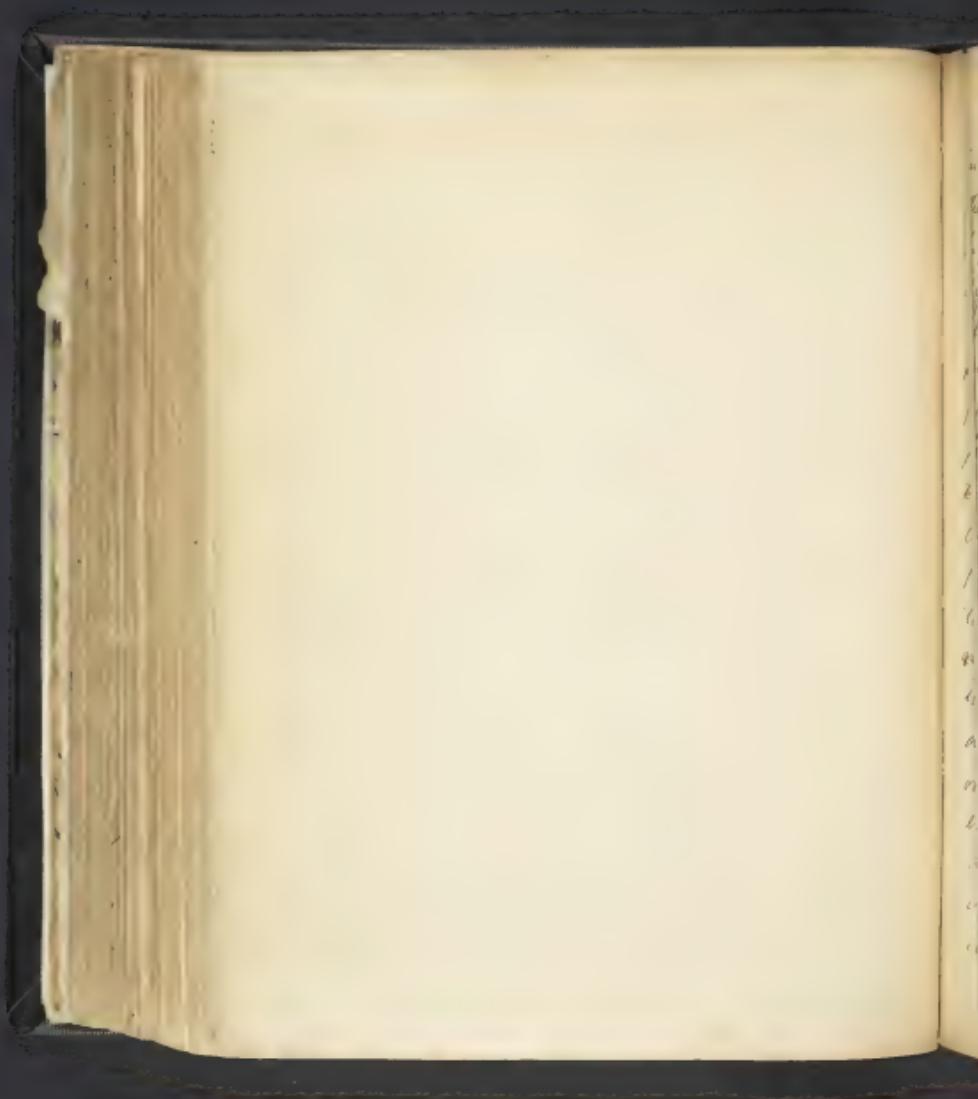
extremities, particularly the lower, nausea and vomiting of bilious matter, alternate chills and flushes of heat. After the fever is established, the pulse becomes full, slow, active and voluminous, there is a determination of blood to the head, with pain with occasional nausea and vomiting, hot skin, suffused or yellow eyes, oppression about the precordia, tender respiration of the epigastric region, and sometimes delirium. The tongue is generally covered with a white or brown fur, and the stools very bilious, generally, when under the influence of a cathartic, urine rich coloured and scanty, often depositing a lateritious sediment. These symptoms occurring together enable the practitioner to form an accurate diagnosis.

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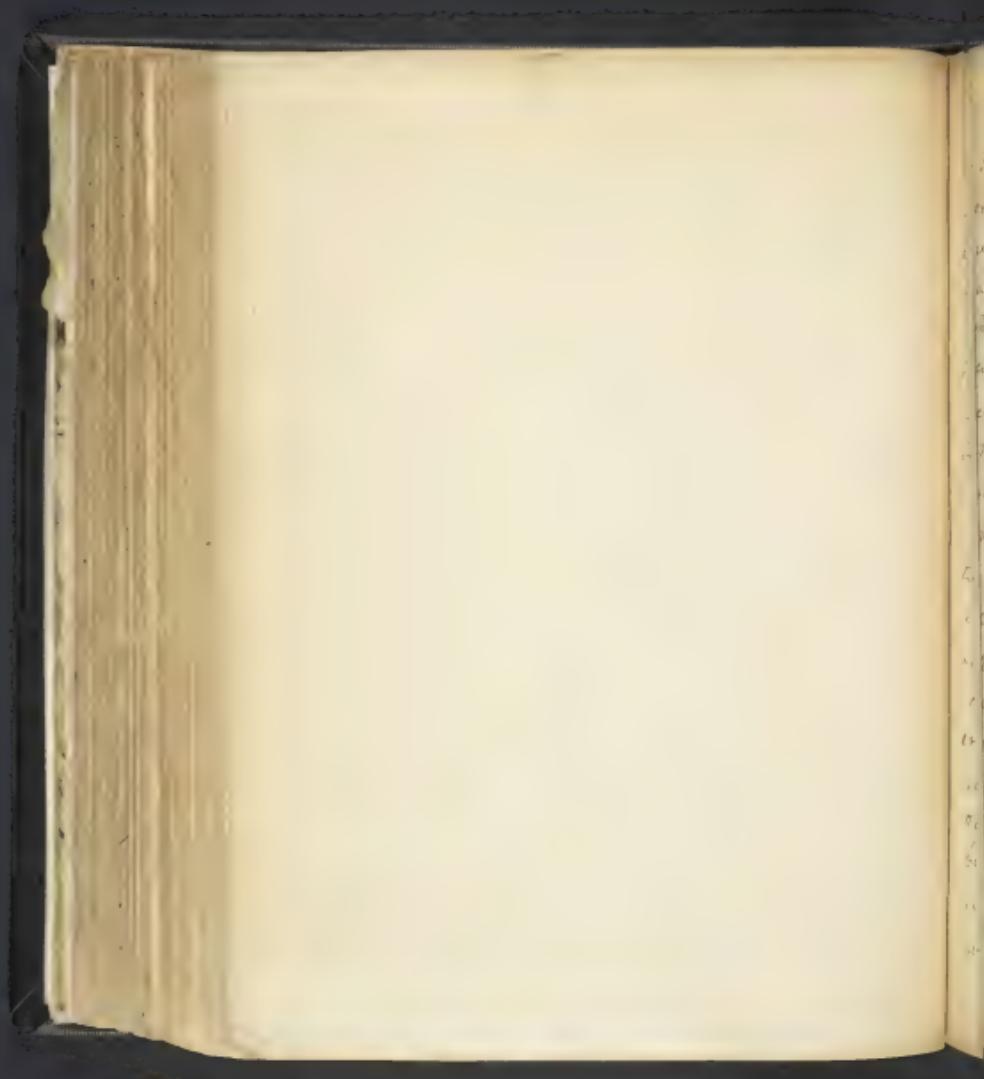
## Prognosis

The pulse becoming softer slower  
 and more natural in every respect the  
 tongue clean and moist the skin soft  
 and perspiring, no determination to  
 the head the urine copious and often  
 visiting a latrines hours sediment remains  
 tranquil, and clearings of the nervous  
 system are favourable symptoms.  
 But on the contrary, when there is great  
 anxiety and loss of strength, intense  
 heat, skin or delirium, irregular  
 by in the pulse, numbing of the hands  
 and fingers and general subspecies  
 tremor, sticking at the bed clothes,  
 hiccups, involuntary discharge by  
 urine and stool and such like  
 symptoms, portray evidently the  
 certain dissolution of the patient.

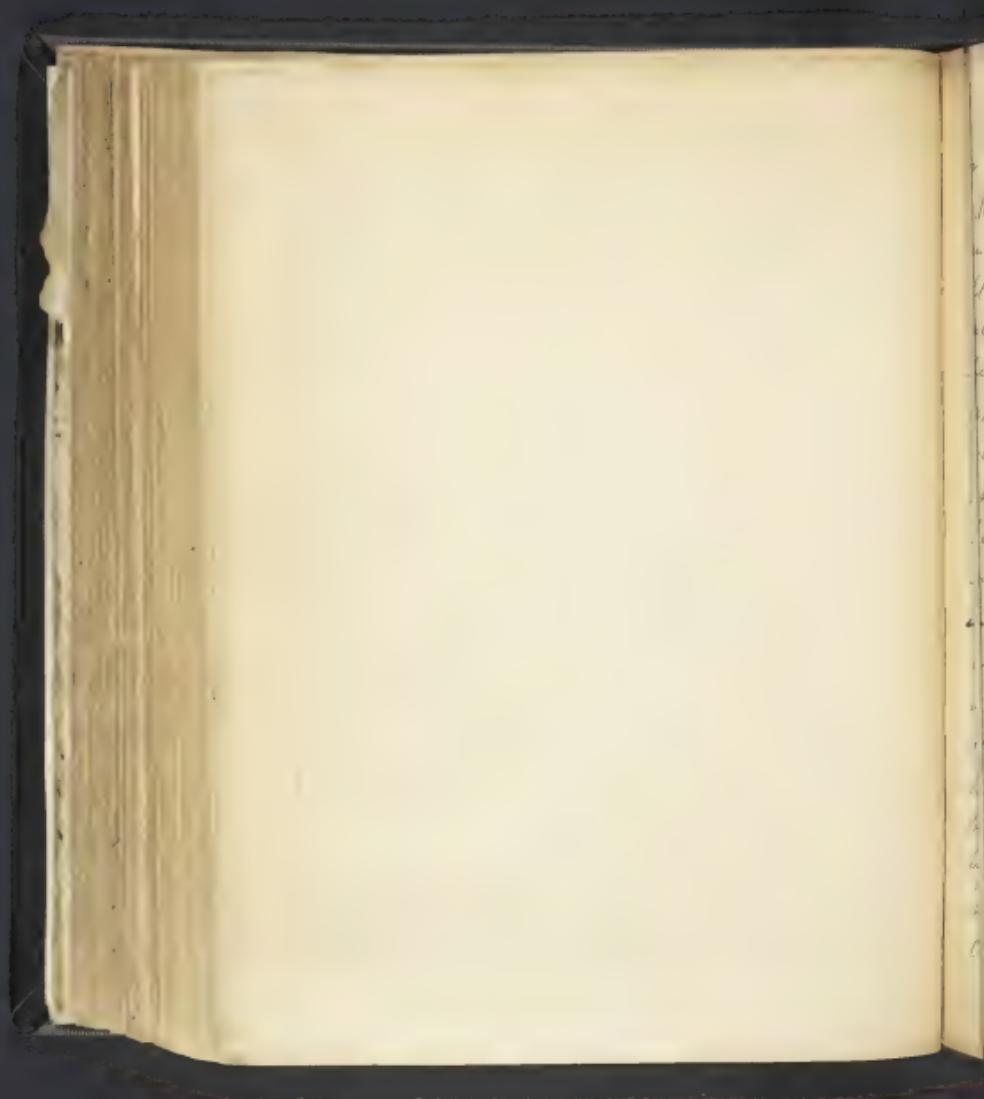
**Treatment** We generally find



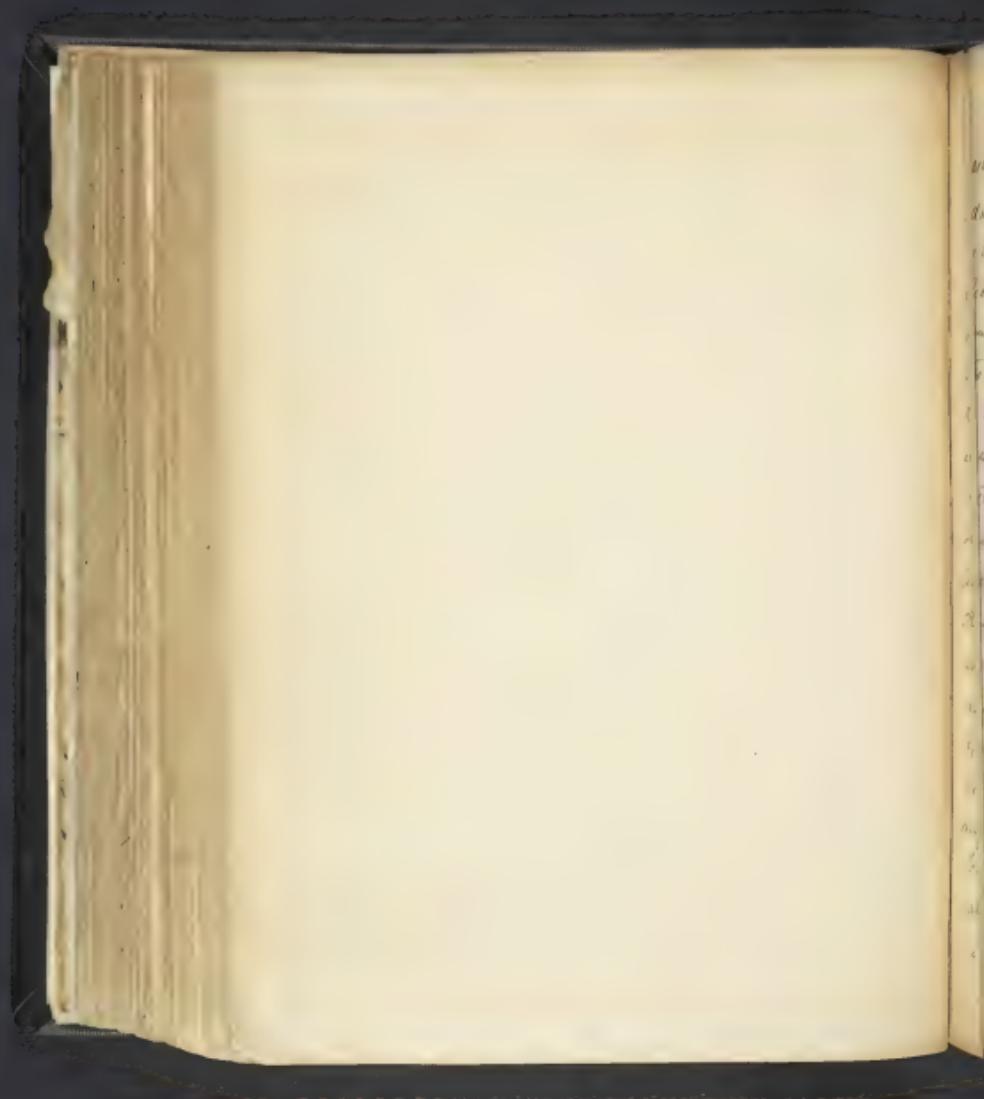
in this fever, in stomach and rest of  
the alimentary canals, affected in a  
higher degree, than other parts of the bo-  
dy. And therefore are cruckles and cathe-  
teries are usually the first means that  
present themselves to the notice of the  
practitioner. In this fever, it is nec-  
essary to pay early attention to the state  
of the stomach, and if there  
be any crudities or collections of bile  
producing distress and vomiting,  
to dislodged them by administering  
an emetic. To assist the opera-  
tion of which, the patient should  
drink freely of lukewarm water  
or an infusion of Chamomile flow-  
ers. Emetic should be continued  
during the continuance of the fever,  
when ever there is nausea or vomit-  
ing of bile and the tongue furred,



as they completely correct the bilious secretion of the stomach. For this purpose the Tartarised antimony is preferable either alone or in conjunction with ipecacuanha. To remove the feculent content of the bowel it is necessary to give some purgative, the best of which is calomel, saffr. white root, sarsaparilla, &c. & those drugs, the remainder of the disease the body should be kept open or in a soluble state by applying by the repetition of fum's of the above mentioned medicine, or Calon oil or opium enemas as the occasion may require. When the disease seems to be kept up by a redundant secretion of bile, mild purgatives will be still more necessary. upon grain of calomel, mixed with a small quantity of Saffr., gamboge

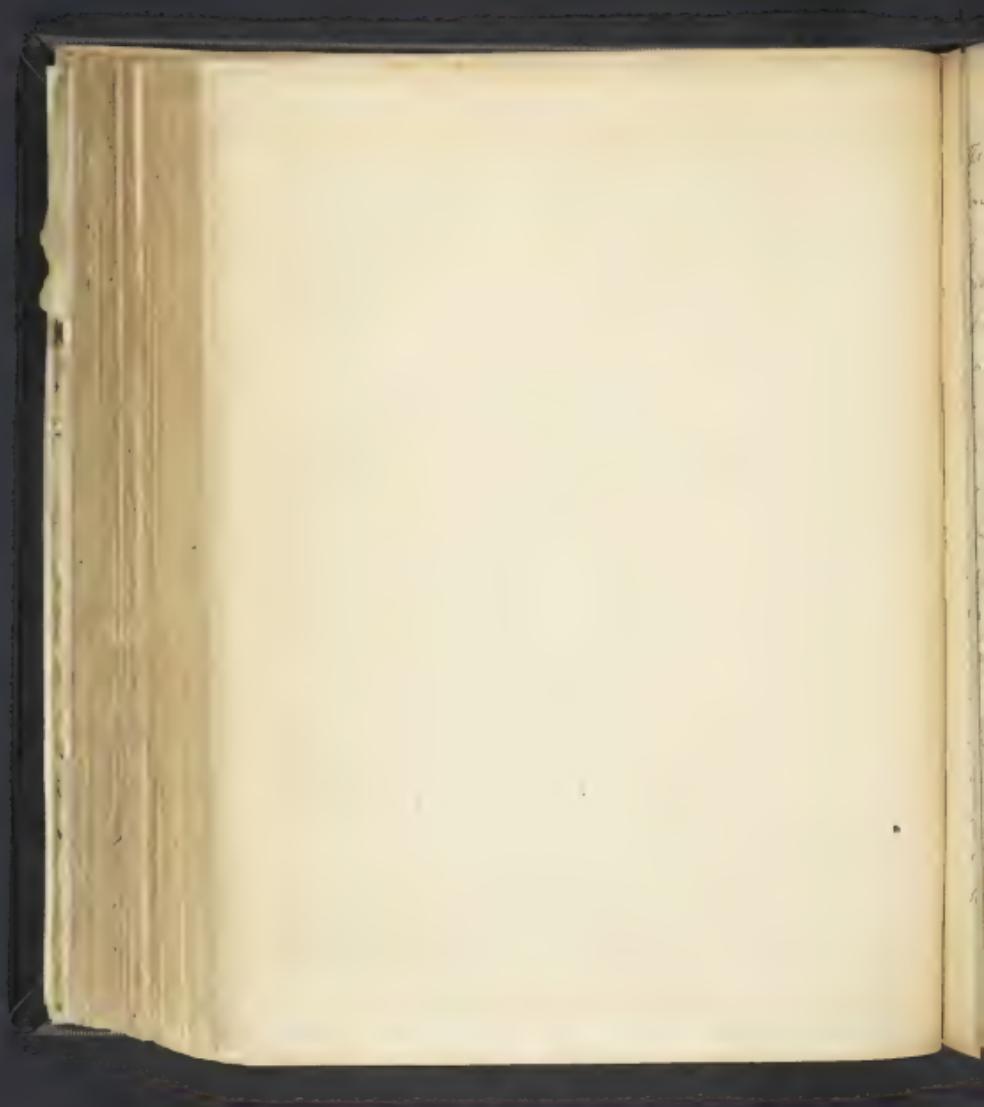


or above generally rises over the paroxysm.  
While the pulse is strong full and active  
we should never cease to extract  
blood. As we thereby reduce circulatory  
action, and ought by no means to  
be neglected. When the disease has  
arisen in a young person of plethoric  
habit, and the attack of fever  
has been severe, with considerable flux-  
ing of the face, and of the eyes  
and a full hard pulse, we must then  
advise the extraction of twelve  
or sixteen ounces of blood drawn from  
a large orifice and not by repeated  
bleeding. Or if the former mode  
there will be greater temporary  
but less permanent weatness induced  
by the evacuation, and should be  
repeated at the circumstances of the  
case demand. It is safer in such

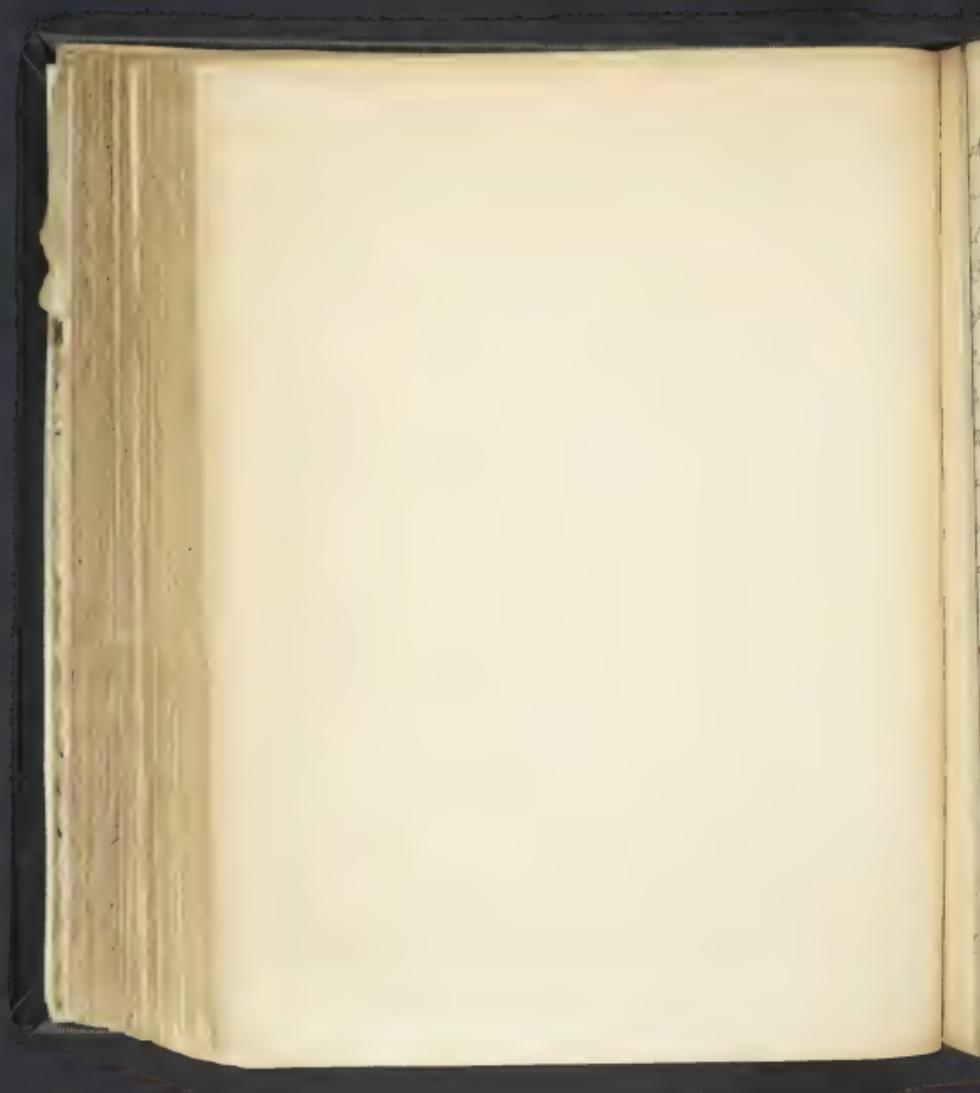


case to detract blood previous to the administration of emetics or purgatives, as they generally act better after venesection. We should though be cautious how we use the lancet in warm climates as it is generally improper to use the lancet to any great extent. as it produces great prostration of strength.

But on the contrary by neglecting to do so, where the pulse is hard, full, and tense the respiration hurried, breath hot, skin dry and the head very painful, we should compound a dangerous case and increase the life of the patient. Great shift processes often from a tickle like state of the mucous surface of the nostrils, or from an accumulation of dust or scurves. If from the former reason all cases of catarrhs if from the latter a gentle emetic. we should make use

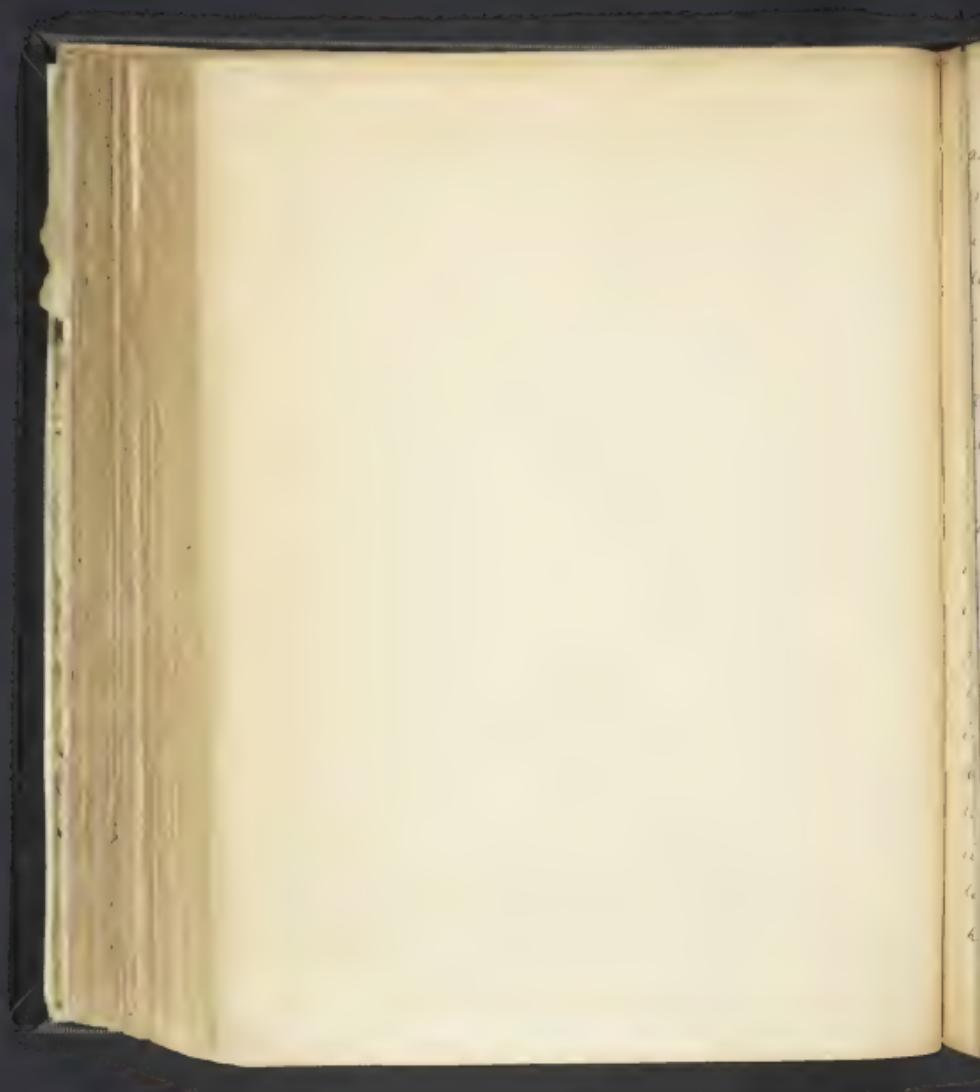


There is great heat, and much thirst  
particularly, so are refrigerants. The best  
of which is the nutras robe, at which  
may be combined with either a hot or  
a cold cloth, with which ever the patient, will  
be better at ease, or covered with both  
at once. Some of the patients are  
afflicted with suppurating ulcers in the  
rectum. The most propitious are  
a few cathartics and cold air, with  
the hands and nose as well as the  
tongue, and in the veins of women  
and very young persons, &c. &c. &c.  
a refrigerant liqueur may be  
drunk. It must be a little strong  
and moderate in quantity, but no  
exceptional health can bear up  
to excessive quantities of the same. In  
the states there is no such article  
as a heat pipe or a cold pipe, so in the



skin is hot and the pulse active and in  
one sense or no feverish but symptoms in  
flammatory affection of the lungs absent.

But in the advanced stage we would not  
yet this remedy with camphor and a  
tropala combination of the constant  
various balsams. We may use sooth as  
the first ointment. At parting the body with  
cold water, as the nose it requires a  
natural balsam darker in color for  
the pain a pair of com red hot aspof.  
I think the former the most useful, and it  
should keep longer. That time  
invaluable to be removed as we  
at first the affectioning a small time  
and with and with or one with alone.  
With a view to examine the condition  
of the surface of the body. It will  
be necessary a man to collect in 100  
years the several parts of animals.



and particularly the numerical pre-  
paration given in small quantities, do  
not have the reaction to quell, with  
which however it can interfere with  
infective affection, and is capable  
to almost all other diaphoretic in-  
cluding those that affect the re-  
tire perspiration and at the same time  
provoke sleep which is generally con-  
siderable. We cannot but be ignorant  
in the lower elements of mind  
as sometimes inserted to, to induce  
gentle melancholy. When the nervous  
deteriorum procure sleep and induces  
the same in the patient, we may  
be assured of their reliability. Such  
less enough can probably be had  
in a stimulant medicine - sure  
to prove infusoria. It will however be  
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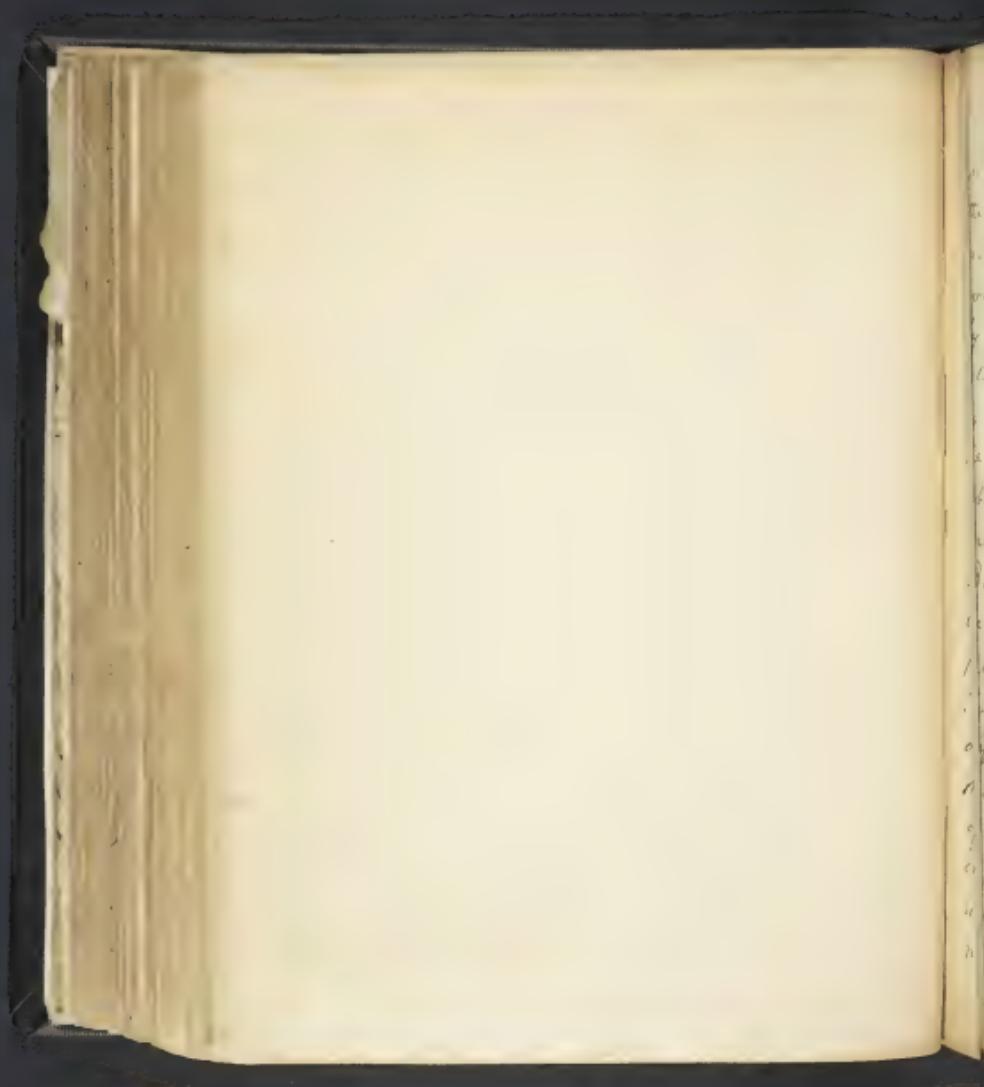
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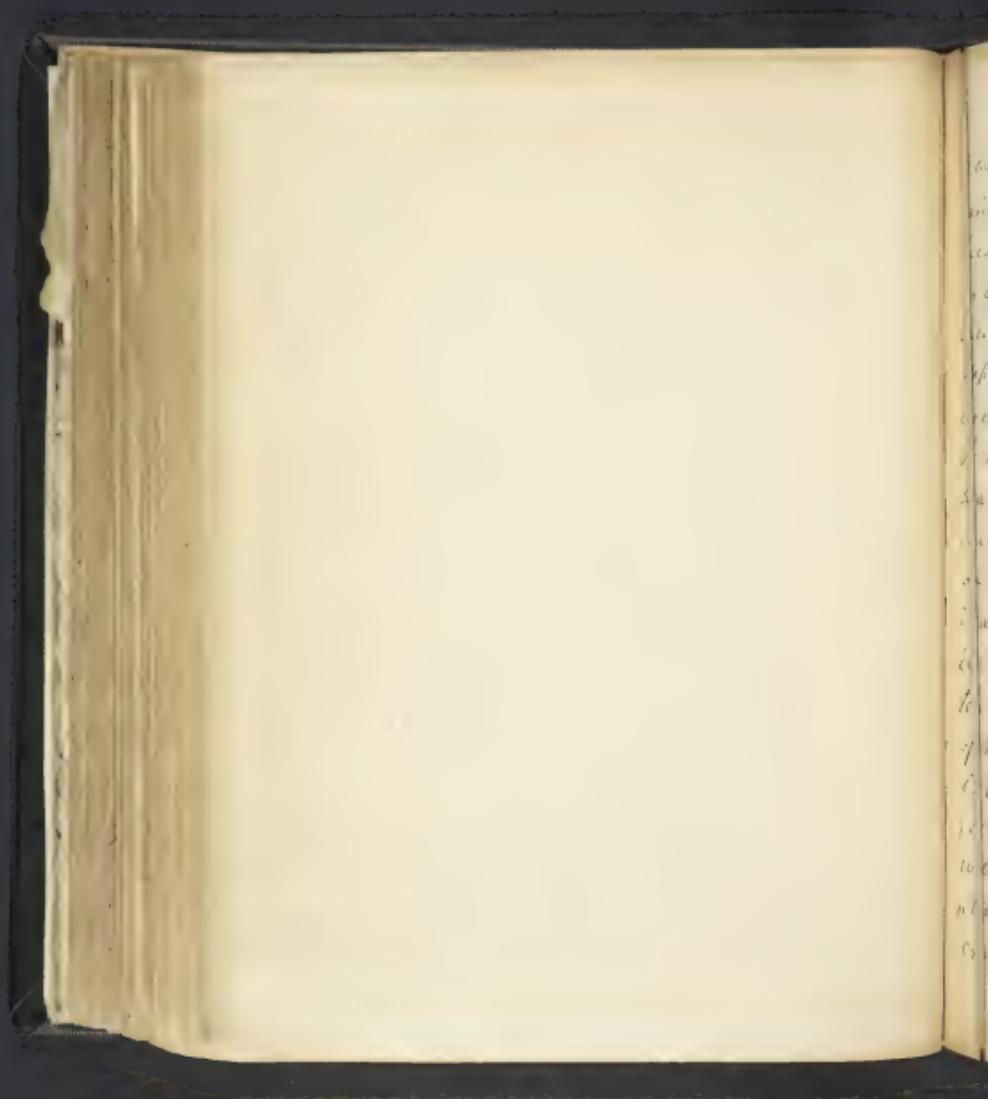
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nal heat, instead of returning the man  
to a cold, and fainting. The pulse, if we  
examine it, also the swiftness and difficulty of  
breathings, head aches and fits, &c.

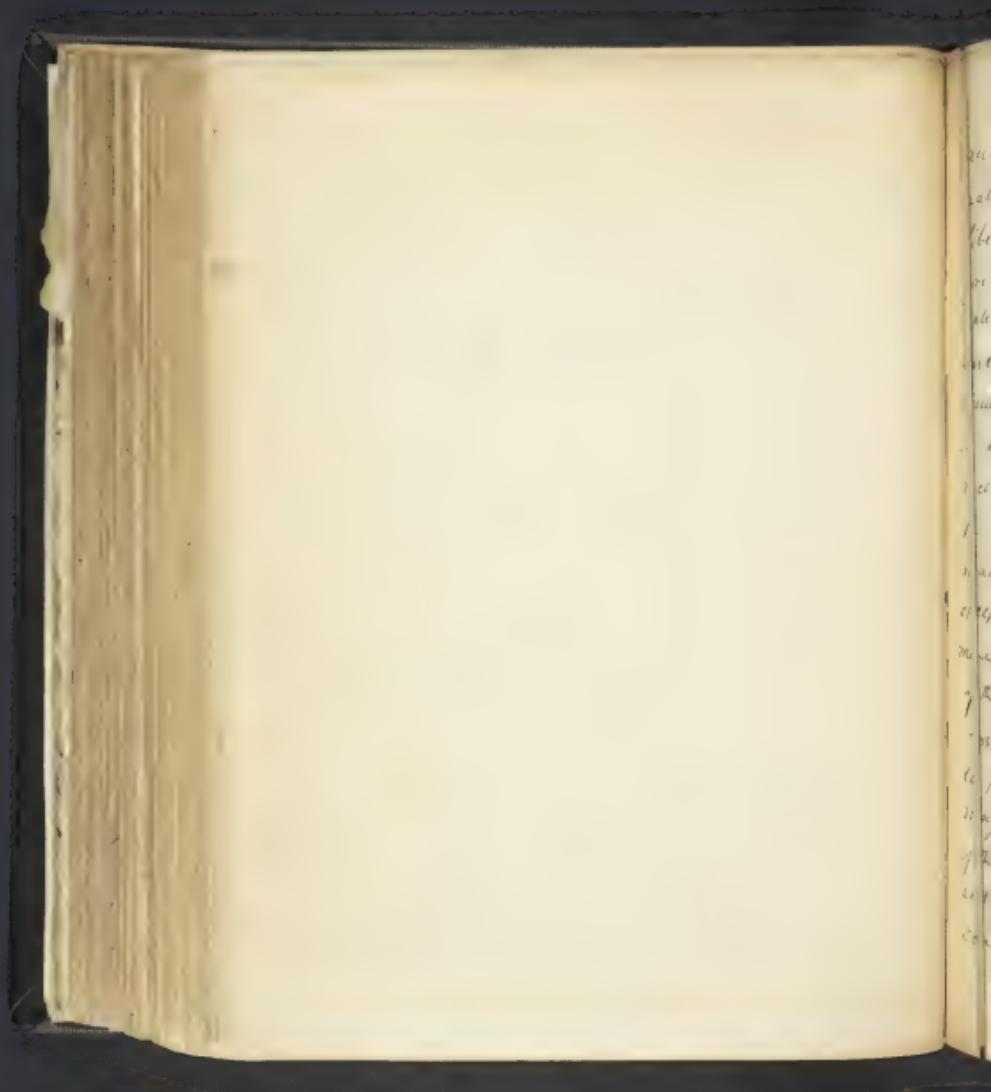
then sweating is hastie and confined  
to the superiores parts of the body, it will  
be more likely a fresh infection  
than catarrh. If the insensibility and  
drowsiness of the stomach is not relieved  
by the opposite, though a few draughts  
of milk, we should add a few dras-  
tis of ianuanum with a little liquorammon.  
In this present greatest occasion, such  
as purging and sweating, which ha-  
ve no tendency to force critical op-  
erations, the former may be the best  
by abstinence, such as diet, generally  
and in marshland. The latter by bre-  
athing the patient dry, cool, & dry,  
having the body occasionally with cold



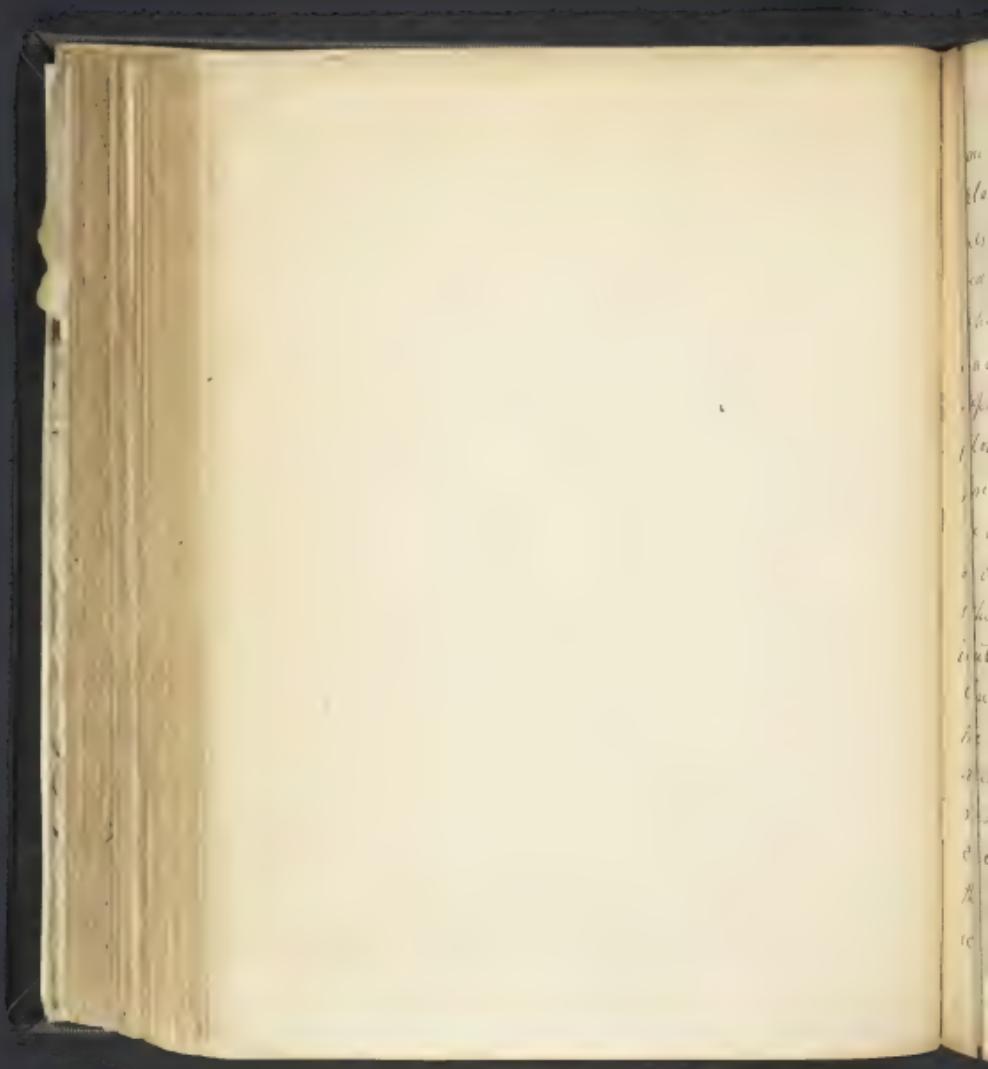
will be the issue of a purge, and at  
the same time diminish the febrile  
symptoms. We may distinguish critical  
evacuations, from those which are not  
by attending to the changes, which take  
place in the system. If purging arises  
and the tongue continues foul,  
the skin hot and dry, without any  
abatement of heat and thirst, we  
may regard it as unfavourable.  
But on the contrary, the tongue  
becoming clean and moist; the  
pulse moderating; the febrile symp-  
toms abating, and a gentle sweat  
diffused universally over the body,  
then we may expect a speedy reduction  
of the fever. In the progress of this fev-  
er, it sometimes happens that four  
peculiar parts of the body are much  
more affected than others, or violent



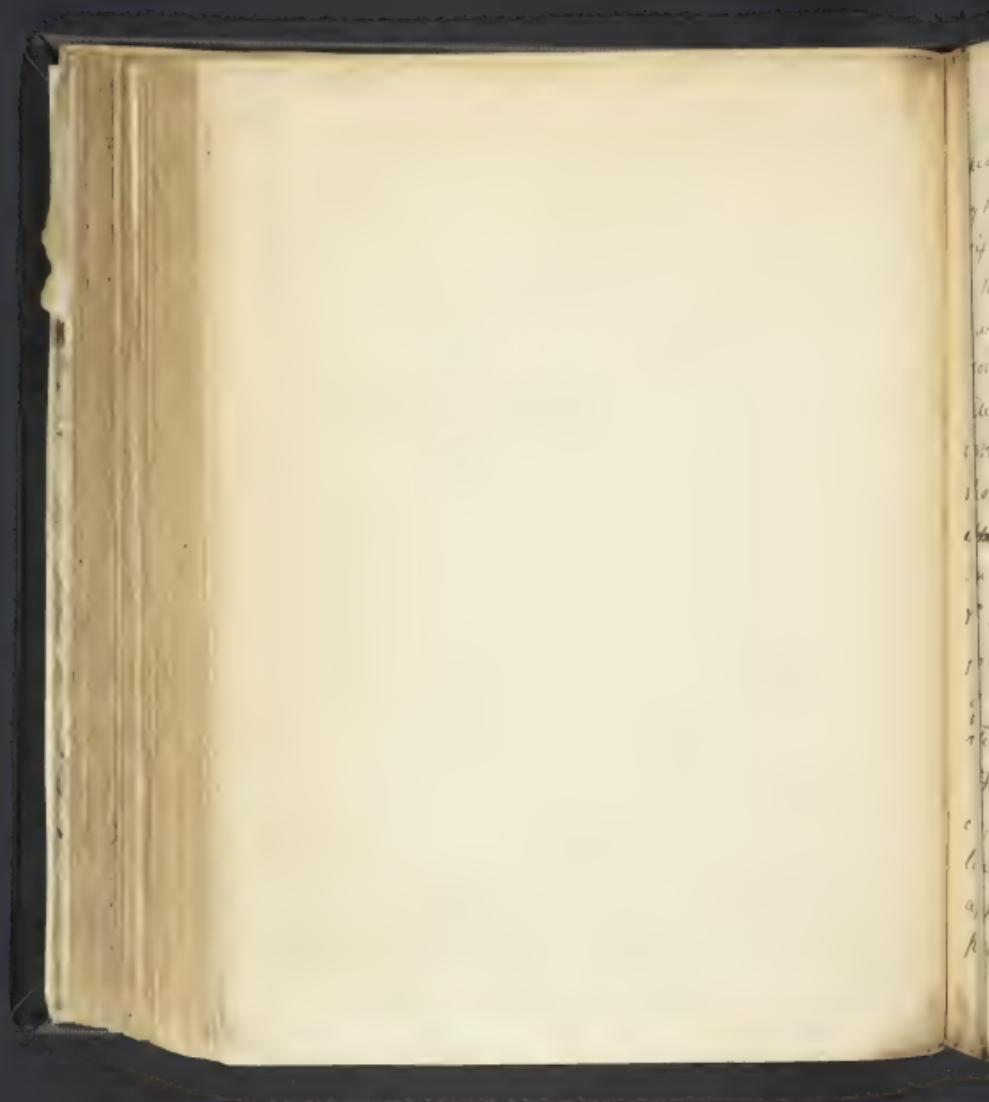
pains in the head or signs of delirium  
arise, and so to be treated by the application  
of calce at its commencement,  
as calc scald or ice poultice and put  
into a bladder. If these fail, topical  
application opening the temporal artery,  
lochia, coprode will be found of utility.  
If these fail remove the hair of the  
head, which of itself is beneficial.  
then next apply a blister to the right  
ear for twenty four hours. When there  
is an unusual coldness of the extremities  
with a sinking pulse, apply blis-  
ters to the ankles, wrists, and joints  
of the legs and shins. and then  
lating cataplasmas to the soles of the  
feet and palms of the hands. They  
will often speedily relieve those sym-  
ptoms. at the same time giving int-  
ernally, camphor, musk ammonia.



and weather, either alone or in combination, and allowing the patient a liberal use of wine. There is often a great intermission of sleep. It is unfortunate however that it causes the easily procured with safety to the patient, as opium is generally prejudicial in all cases except those of the typhus fevers. If necessity obliges us to use sedatives, the spiritus aetheris nitroci and Mayman's medicament liquor will be the least exceptionable. Where the fever is kept up merely by the indigestion and insatiableness of the stomach, opium given in small doses may be of service. If it is found to procure refreshing sleep, the dose may be repeated as the circumstances of the case may demand. But if rest is disturbed it should be discontinued. Where opium is forbidden



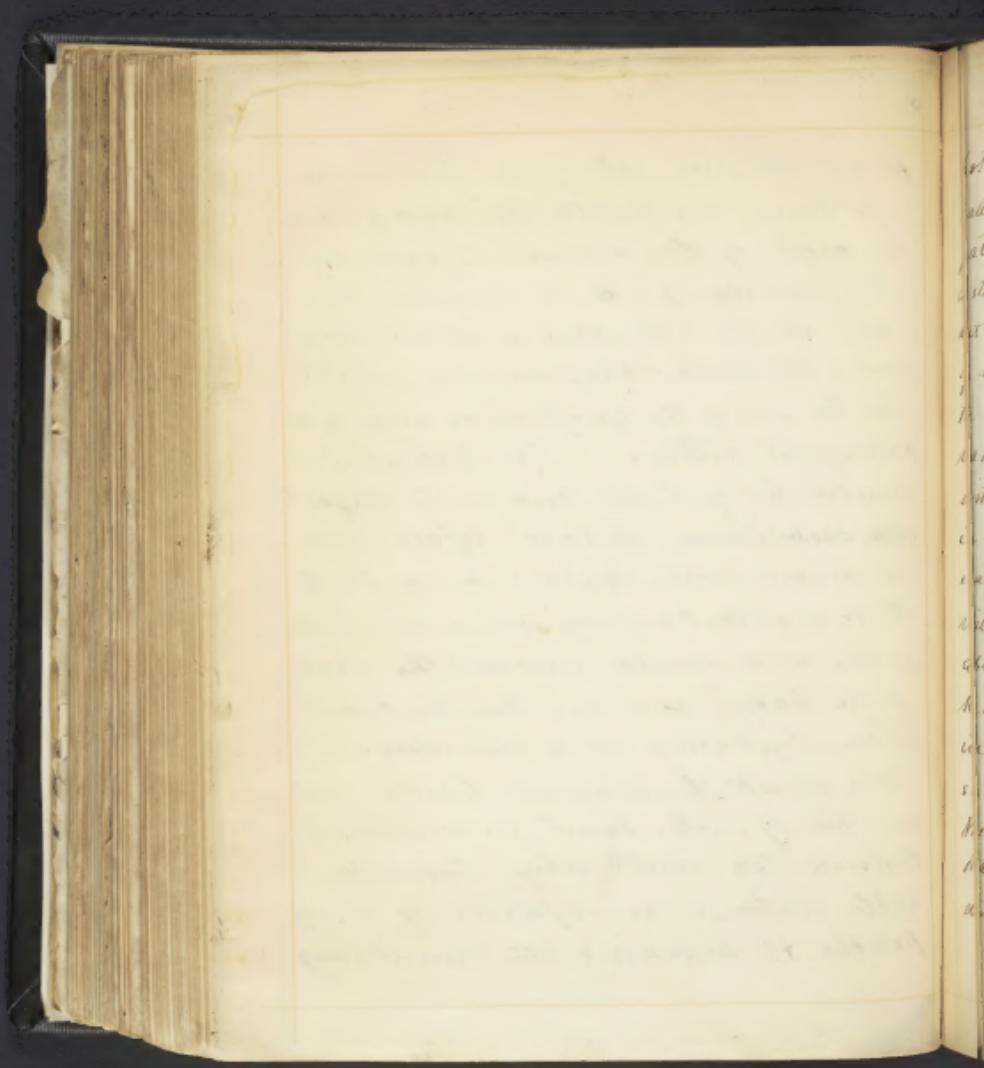
on account of delirium we may  
place a pillow of hops under the patient  
nts head. This remedy has some time pro-  
ved to be singular utility. it may also be  
administered in the form of emulsion or co-  
hess. In some instances the fever is  
kept up solely by delirium. If the sym-  
ptoms are mild we may venture to  
prescribe the persianian bark, it may  
be used either in substance, infusion  
or decoction. Generally we will  
which is least disagreeable to the pa-  
tient stomach. If so ride, the medi-  
cine sits easy on the stomach, and  
the patient sleeps well, breathes easy,  
and finds no increase of heat we  
may then continue its use. The effi-  
cacy of this medicine is increased by  
the addition of a few drs. of sulphur  
it need. The bark is sift with many



people on first taking it, to run off by the bowels; we should then add five or six drops of Laudanum to each dose.

We sometimes find it will not sit easy on the stomach, in almost any case. In such cases, we may substitute the use of the Quassia, or any of the astringent bitters. The patient's food should be of light and easily digested substances, as sago, tapioca, indigo arrow root, preparations of barley &c. He should carefully avoid animal food, as it would increase the heat of the body, and quicken the circulation, by acting as a stimulus.

For drink he may use barley water, thin gruel, toast and water, biscuits tea, milk whey, lemonade, apple water or an infusion of dried peaches &c avoiding all stimulating



potations. When the patient is in a convalescent state he should avoid any fatigues, or exposure to cold or sun. As restoratives he may use a generous diet but very digestible, and a moderate use of wine will be serviceable, and if the season of the year will admit cold bathing by affusion. A change of air with moderate, daily, exercise either in a carriage or on horseback, graduated to the strength of the patient, will prove powerful auxiliaries in enabling the patient to regain perfect health. Where the appetite is defective, we may use stomachic bitters, such as are used in dyspepsia. We will generally find this to be all that is necessary for the cure of our ordinary bilious fever. — —

